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REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 22, 23 and 25-27 are pending. Claim 22 is the sole independent claim and has been amended to incorporate subject matter of dependent claim 24, which has been canceled. Dependent Claim 27 is also amended. Support for the amendments can be found at page 17, lines 7-30 and Figs. 16-18 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 22-24 and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Piper or Mardis. Claim 25 stands rejected as being unpatentable over either of these documents in view of Down. These rejections respectfully are traversed.

Claim 22 recites, inter alia, a termination device including a compressive system and a clamp, separate from the compressive system, clamping the tension member to provide a second retaining mechanism.

Piper, on the other hand, discloses a wire-cable clamp that includes a casing 1 that has parallel walls 2, which have an enlarged end portion 6, and from which flanges 3 project laterally. A filler block 9, which has a corresponding enlarged portion 11, is secured in the casing between the walls by rivets. In use, the cable is passed around the enlarged portion 11 of the filler block, passed beneath pin 8 and folded over itself. The overlapping portion of the cable is clamped by clips 17. The clips 17 provide the only compressive mechanism of the clamp.

Mardis discloses a rope thimble that includes a plate-like member 2 having a thin body portion 3 and a thickened semi-circular end portion 4. A co-acting plate member 6 is adapted to abut the thickened portion 4 of the plate-like member 2, holding the rope therebetween. U-bolts 18 co-act with the same plate-like member 2 for holding the dead end of the rope.

Therefore, neither Piper nor Mardis discloses or suggests at least the feature recited in claim 22 whereby a clamp is separate from the compressive system. Further, Piper does not disclose or suggest the feature whereby the clamp provides a second retaining mechanism.

Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 22.

The dependent claims recite features in addition to those recited in claim 22 and are

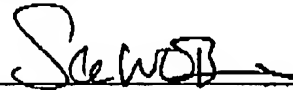
submitted to be allowable in their own right. For example, claim 27 recites that the clamp is located to be drawn toward the compressive system in the case of slippage of the tension member relative to the compressive system. Further independent consideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the dependent claims is requested.

Favorable consideration and passage to issue are requested.

Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 15-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD J. ERICSON et al.



Sean W. O'Brien
Registration No. 37,689

Otis Elevator Company
Intellectual Property Department
Ten Farm Springs
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 676-5760